

only member of the committee in the city at that time. And as for Mr. Barnum, he merely authorized me to send the telegram which brought them to the city. All communications of whatever nature are received and opened by me, and when the telegram above mentioned came from Lawrence informing us that McWay had a nephew there I showed it to Mr. Barnum, and said, 'Here is a telegram which says that McWay has a nephew. Hadn't we better send for him?' The only way we can find out what he knows is by getting him here.' Mr. Barnum assented and directed me to telegraph. Mr. Barnum left the city the following afternoon (October 30) for his home and did not return until several days after the election. He never saw Mr. McWay again. Mr. Barnum had no further connection with the matter in any way.

I have very little to say about the Cumberland business because we know very little about it. The following letter was brought to me from the office of *The Truth* newspaper October 30, which had been sent to the Editor of *The Washington Post*:

CUMBERLAND, Md.

*Editor Post:*—  
Dear Sir:—I see by the papers that Mr. Garfield denies writing what is now called the "Chinese letter." I wish to say through your valuable columns that I know he did write that letter, or at least my friend told me so. I do not know who is now a member of the Employers' Union of Lynn. Mr. Morey consulted with me and other members as to obtaining Mr. Garfield's views upon the labor question, particularly the strike. We concluded that he would do so, and received his letter in reply. I happened to be with Mr. Morey the 25th of January when he got the letter, opened it, and we read it, therefore I know, as I said, of my own knowledge, that Mr. Garfield did write the letter.

I am now working here in Cumberland, and if you can go can be given to a magistrate and make oath to the above fact. Yours truly,

ROBERT LINDSAY.

I read the letter to Mr. Hewitt, he being the only member of the committee on manufacturers, and thought he should send a telegram to our correspondent in Cumberland asking him to ascertain whether there was such a man as Robert Lindsay. He did so, and I received his letter in reply. I happened to be with Mr. Morey the 25th of January when he got the letter, opened it, and we read it, therefore I know, as I said, of my own knowledge, that Mr. Garfield did write the letter.

Mr. Webb presented the members of the Council and the Committee with some suggestions to make to the committee. "We do not propose," said he, "to go radically into matters, to ask for a new charter or to tear the present charter to pieces." In reply to questions by Senator McCarthy, Mr. Webb said the Council of Reform was an organization growing out of the work of destroying the Tweed ring; that it was composed of members of different parties who were taxpayers interested in the attempt to reduce the expenses of the City Government; that many members had been engaged for years looking into the workings of the departments. "Our object," said he, "is to reduce the taxes in the City of New-York. I pay a good deal in taxes, and there are others who pay much more. Taxes increase with the increase in the expenditures of the City Government, and we are interested, therefore, in reducing those expenditures."

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER.**

Mr. Webb presented a paper signed by the Committee on Legislation, containing the following points:

1. There should be no general repeal of, and no extensive changes in the present charter of this city, nor should there be an attempt to substitute for it another charter. The charter of the year of incorporation of this State and city, and has proven to be one of the best the city has ever had. Its defects have been developed by trial, and it has become necessary to remedy them by new legislation, while it may in some respects be better amended, we think it should not suffer any considerable change.

II. That the Board of Estimate and Apportionment should be given a power to regulate all salaries and public expenses, and that its appropriations each year it should be limited to an amount to be annually decreased by a definite diminution percentage on the previous year's appropriation.

III. That the amount of money expended by the city, except for repaying the city debt, should be issued by the city, except to meet an emergency, in acquiring or improving its real estate. In the present condition of the city no expense should be incurred for such emergencies, except in the interest of public safety.

IV. That further measures should be taken to retire the debt of the city, and that the Constitution of 1870 to secure payment of the sum of \$8,000,000 at the expiration of three years from the date of their issue, or to provide for the payment of the same value of the city's debt, promptly, excepting in extraordinary cases of needful emergencies.

V. That the alleged ambiguity of the charter in regard to the independence of the Dock Department, be removed, so that the charter of the Dock Department, and the charters of the other departments, will stand on the same footing as the other departments of the City Government.

VI. That the General Fund of the city be made more permanent.

VII. That restrictive measures be taken to prevent unnecessary public improvements.

**ARGUMENTS OF PROFESSOR DWIGHT.**

Professor Dwight spoke in support of the first two points. He said he was not personally prepared with witnesses or evidence to demonstrate the advisability of the points recommended, but that the committee was prepared to do so. He called attention to a statement of reductions that can be made in the expences of carrying on the government of this city, prepared by the Council of Reform and submitted to the Legislature last spring, in support of the Public Burdens Bill. The statement ended with a recapitulation of the savings that can be made in the city expenses, without detriment to the public service, as follows:

In addition the Council estimated last \$1,000,000 per annum for reducing expenses in hospitals, poor-houses, etc., and by keeping certain expenses the sum of \$10,000,000 might be saved. This latter estimate was made without any consideration of the amount to be spent for the payment of the debts of the city.

He also spoke in regard to the amount of money committed to the saving of the city, in the last year and the number of members of the Council of Reform who were in the service of the city.

The following feature in our plan is to have the expenditure limited, and to cause them to contract constantly. It is then an constitutional point in the way, to have a constant reduction of our power of taxation, and to make mistakes, let us contract.

He also spoke in regard to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and the power of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

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